

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4565
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2016
Mobile Penetration
Rai Shri Prem Das

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the trend of mobile phone penetration in the country aggregated by States, State-wise;
- (b) the steps taken to improve mobile communication penetration in North Eastern Regions (NER);
- (c) whether the mobile penetration is likely to be adversely affected due to likely increase in mobile handset costs as a result of new security features; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

- (a) The service area wise number of mobile telephone connections in the country during the last three years and the current year as on 31.10.2016 are given in the Annexure.
- (b) The Cabinet approved a Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan for the North East Region (NER) on 10.9.2014 with a total estimated project cost of Rs. 5336.18 crore, to be funded from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). The plan objectives include providing mobile coverage in 8621 uncovered villages of NER, installing 321 mobile towers for providing seamless mobile coverage along the National Highways and laying 3213 kms of Optical Fiber Cable between State capitals and district headquarters for strengthening the transmission network in the region.
- (c) The new security features may not necessarily lead to increase in mobile handset costs. Mobile penetration also depends on several other factors like Government policies, Tariff, Quality of Service provided by operators etc. Therefore, the impact of security features on mobile penetration cannot be assessed in isolation.
- (d) Does not arise in view of above.